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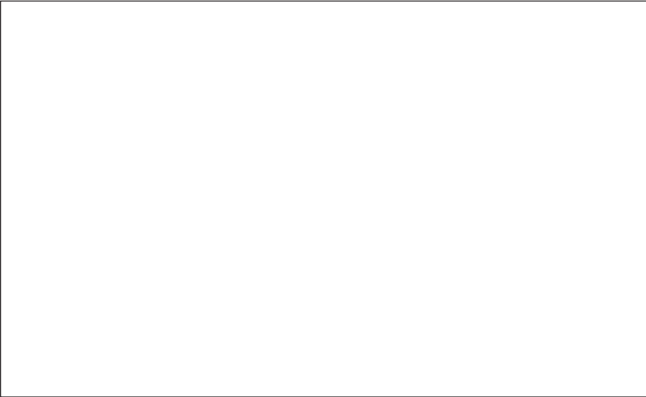
THURSDAY DECEMBER 18, 2003

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I N S I D E


Local

WEATHER FORECAST




PICTURE TIME: 2:25 A.M., DECEMBER 17, 2003
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.


A monsoon trough extends from 6N130E through a tropical disturbance near 8N145E and finally to near 5N160E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the disturbance are found in the Mariana islands as well as between Yap and Chuuk or between 4N and 16N from 139E to 153E. Just east of the monsoon trough, a surface trough of low pressure continues to near the equator at 168E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are developing north and east of the trough or within 100 miles either side of a line from 9N160E to the equator at 173E, including Kosrae. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across portions of the Marshall islands, between 4N and 16N from 170E to 180.




SAIPAN AND TINIAN
Cloudy and breezy with scattered showers, some locally heavy, and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 20-25 mph. Gusting in 35 mph in showers.
Temperature: Lows near 78. Highs near 86.




GUAM AND ROTA
Cloudy and breezy with scattered showers, some locally heavy, and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 20-25 mph. Gusting in 35 mph in showers.
Temperature: Lows near 78. Highs near 86.




PALAU
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.




POHNPEI
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: East at 10 kt.




YAP AND ULITHI
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Northeast at 10 kt.






















KOSRAE
Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
Winds: Southeast at 10 kt.



CHUUK
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers with a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: Northeast at 10-15 kt.



MAJURO
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
Winds: East at 10-15 kt.

CITY	FORECAST	HIGH	LOW
 Auckland	Cloudy	61F (16C)	49F (9C)
 Beijing	Sunny	44F (7C)	26F (-3C)
 Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	74F (23C)	61F (16C)
 Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86F (30C)	72F (22C)
 London, England	Cloudy	56F (13C)	45F (7C)
 Los Angeles	Cloudy	69F (21C)	51F (11C)
 Manila	Cloudy	88F (31C)	71F (22C)
 Melbourne	Sunny	73F (23C)	54F (12C)
 Miami	Partly Cloudy	84F (29C)	75F (24C)
 New York, NY	Cloudy	52F (11C)	48F (9C)
 Osaka	Rain	54F (12C)	46F (8C)
 Paris	Cloudy	53F (12C)	41F (5C)
 Pusan	Rain	58F (14C)	43F (6C)
 Rome	Partly Cloudy	55F (13C)	39F (4C)
 Salem, Oregon	Rain	54F (12C)	38F (3C)
 San Francisco	Sunny	64F (18C)	47F (5C)
 Seoul	Rain	52F (11C)	45F (7C)
 Tokyo	Rain	55F (13C)	49F (9C)
 Washington, DC	Cloudy	60F (16C)	48F (9C)

Guerrero: Yangetmai has the right to question Teacher Rep poll result

Board of Education member Herman Guerrero commented yesterday that Marianas High School teacher James Yangetmai has the prerogative to question the results of the recently concluded Teacher Representative election, which the Association of Commonwealth Teacher candidate lost to Kagman High School teacher



Guerrero

Ambrose Bennett. “Anyone [who] is running can always question [the election result]. I think they [administration] need to ensure whether he has valid points or not. If it’s not valid, then at least you settle the issue. And there’s no cloud hanging over the whole process. “It’s a democratic process. People who lose sometimes ask or think there are discrepancies or procedures [that were] not followed. If that is the case then the people that are conducting the election needs to refute them and say that this is what we did, and this the process and the procedures,” said the official, who recently lost the BOE chairmanship to Roman Benavente. Yangetmai, who lagged behind Bennett by 16 votes in Monday’s poll, hinted of possible vote manipulation, casting

doubts on the election’s credibility. ACT claimed the process was not valid and fair, as it allegedly lacked transparency. The group raised the absence of its own representative at the polling center. “I guess in any election, there’s a need to be clear on the process and procedures. If the one who lost is questioning the validity of the election then perhaps they need to revisit [the issue] and make sure there’s no doubt that what they certified is true and correct. The process has to be followed and it has to be transparent so nobody can question it,” insisted Guerrero, who called on House legislators yesterday. The BOE member representing Saipan was also curious over the dismal turnout in Monday’s election.

“When you only have 28 percent [of] eligible voters voting, that’s an extremely low turnout. With this kind of turnout, there’s no clear mandate from the teachers. So it’s questionable. One can raise the question why you don’t have many who voted? There’s a lot of questions why,” he asserted. Gov. Juan N. Babauta proclaimed Bennett’s victory on Tuesday, a day after the Teacher Representative poll was held here Monday and simultaneously on Rota and Tinian. The chief executive stressed that teacher representation in the BOE is constitutionally mandated. He said that concerns raised over the selection has prompted his office to hold the election so that all public school teachers in the CNMI could choose a representative that would truly represent them.

Babauta credited the Public School System, the BOE, the

PSS legal counsel, the Attorney General’s Office and the administration for putting together a fair and objective selection process. Of the 500 full-time teachers who were eligible to vote, Babauta confirmed that only 142 teachers or 28 percent cast their votes. He lamented the minimal participation. According to the breakdown, Yangetmai garnered 62 votes while Bennett gained 78 votes. Two ballots were reportedly cast without votes. Babauta explained that only full time teachers were eligible to vote in this election, quoting PSS’ definition of full time teachers as any person who is employed by the Public School System and has the primary responsibility for the education, instruction or provides related services for one or more students. *(Marian A. Maraya)*

Paras signs payment schedule with CHC

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

Paras Enterprises president Juan T. Guerrero has signed a payment schedule agreement with the Department of Public Health only last week. Earlier, Paras legal counsel Mark Smith clarified that no agreement had been reached yet as of Jan. 8 as previously agreed by both parties. Guerrero said yesterday that Paras signed the payment schedule only last Jan. 14. On January 16, he said Paras received an additional \$100,000 payment from DPH. Based on the schedule, the department will give another payment of \$80,000 to Paras on Jan. 30 and some \$50,000 on Feb. 13. Guerrero said Paras and DPH continue to negotiate for the \$50,000 billing. “We have submitted our billing for \$50,000. I don’t know why they’re disputing our billing now when in the last six years,

they never did,” said Guerrero. He said Paras submitted \$248,000 billing to DPH as of Jan. 7, 2004. Based on the schedule, the DPH only acknowledged some \$230,000. “There is some flexibility but we’ll still pursue what is really due us,” said Guerrero, adding that the department itself is charging Paras some \$11,000 for outstanding hospital bills. This amount would be assessed against the last payment to Paras. “We’ll settle that but I’m not really sure how much we owe them so we have to discuss that,” he said. Guerrero also clarified that he has not signed any expiration transfer agreement with the department, which would “legalize” the transfer of Paras employees to the Commonwealth Health Center. Some authorities, however, said that a consensual transfer agreement with Paras is no longer needed

since its contracts with employees provide that their termination of employment goes with Paras’ contract termination with CHC. Both parties have agreed to finalize their payment schedule in view of the DPH’ shift to direct hiring of nursing staff effective Jan. 1, 2004. Paras and other agencies’ contracts with CHC ended on Dec. 31, 2003 but transfer negotiations dragged along pending the settlement of the government’s debt with the companies and the lack of funded FTEs or positions at the department. On Jan. 2, Finance released \$100,000 each to Paras and Saipan Employment Agency Services as partial payment. The government terminated its contracts with agencies on the belief that direct hiring would result in better delivery of health care and boost employee morale. The direct hiring aims to implement a uniform pay for all nursing staff.

DEQ heightens illegal dumping campaign

The Division of Environmental Quality warned that it would impose a fine on anyone caught illegally dumping trash on the islands. DEQ director John I. Castro Jr. urged the public to respect the no littering signs the agency has installed at beach parks and other areas. “We will assess a fine. Our regulations allow us to impose up to \$25,000 per day of violation,” Castro said. The DEQ hopes that the move will deter the public from illegally disposing of trash and household wastes. Castro said trash should be disposed of at the Lower Base

Refuse Transfer Station or the Marpi landfill. “Help us. It’s not just the DEQ’s job to keep Saipan beautiful but it’s also the public’s responsibility,” Castro added. The Environmental Inter-agency Cleanup Operation Team, of which DEQ is a member, and volunteers from non-profit group MOVER recently conducted an emergency cleanup in Garapan’s Makaka beach site, which had deteriorated due to illegal dumping. According to EICOT chairman Benny Pangelinan, people just ignored the DEQ’s no-littering sign at the site. *(John Ravelo)*

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL



3 men arrested for alleged assault

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
REPORTER

Authorities arrested Monday night three men who have been a subject of intensive investigations by law enforcers since November 2003 when a 43-year-old man lodged a complaint against them.

Police department spokesperson Sgt. Tom Blas Jr. said Martin F. Borja, 38; Chris W. Taimanglo, 20; and William M. Faisao, 19, were arrested based on the arrest warrants issued against them by Judge Juan Lizama.

Blas said COPPS officers Jesse Seman and Sandy Hambros arrested the three suspects in connection with a Nov. 16, 2003, assault case lodged by Saburo Stewart, 43.

Lizama issued the warrants after the police released the results of its investigation on the case. The officers immediately served the warrants to the suspects. All three were brought to the Adult Correctional facility in Susupe where they were booked and detained pending bail hearing.

The investigation report showed that the police department received a call for assistance around 1:28am of Nov. 16, 2003, due to a disturbance in the house of Stewart in Kagman III area. Medics were also dispatched due to injuries sustained by the victim.

According to the report, the victim and two of the three suspects were involved in a fight outside the victim's house. During the squabble, the suspects used rocks, a machete, and a baseball bat to allegedly attack the victim, causing serious injuries.

Stewart reportedly sustained lacerations on the back, legs, and arms, as well as other cuts and bruises on his body.

After the investigation, probers determined the culpability of the three suspects and asked that arrest warrants be issued against them.

The suspects are now facing disturbing the peace, assault and battery, assault with dangerous weapons, and criminal mischief charges.

Taiwanese boat seized off New Caledonia

A Taiwanese fishing boat has been intercepted south of New Caledonia for fishing illegally.

The French high commission in the New Caledonia capitol of Noumea says the ship had been spotted by a French surveillance aircraft and an inspection showed it carried dozens of tons of fresh and frozen fish.

The interception comes just days after the captain of another Taiwanese fishing boat was jailed for six months and fined almost US\$200,000 for fishing illegally. (RNZI/PIR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION

Saipan Southern High School students gather around Gov. Juan N. Babauta during the chief executive's recent visit at the campus, in line with the administration's education program. Babauta has been putting emphasis on public education as an important tool in the eventual recovery of the local economy.

MPLA board in limbo due to lack of quorum

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

The lack of a quorum on the Board of Directors of the Marianas Public Lands Authority is stymieing efforts to move ahead on critical projects, including 36 new offers for land compensation that require the board's approval.

Only two members remain on the Board—chairperson, Ana Demapan-Castro and vice chairman Manny Villagomez—following the resignation of a member and term expiration of another.

Member Pedro M. Atalig resigned from the board effective Jan. 1, 2004, while member

Pedro Igitol's term expired on Dec. 31, 2003.

The board is composed of five seats, with one representative each from Tinian and Rota and three from Saipan. The CNMI Constitution also provides that one of the directors should be of Carolinian descent, while another should represent women.

At the moment, Demapan-Castro represents Saipan and the women's sector, while Villagomez represents Tinian. This means nobody is representing Rota, the Carolinians, and two seats for Saipan.

This, even as the MPLA has already readied 36 new offers for land compensation that re-

quire the board's approval.

"We have to get the board's approval before we can make the offer but the board can't possibly meet right now for lack of quorum," said MPLA commissioner Henry S. Hofschneider.

The board normally holds a regular meeting on the third Thursday of the month.

Hofschneider said that some names have been floated for appointment by the governor to the board. He declined to identify them.

Meantime, he said that 38 landowners have accepted the MPLA's initial offers and are like likely to get their compensation within the month.

"Once Finance puts the

money in MPLA's special account, we can start cutting checks," he said.

Hofschneider said that MPLA is offering "just and fair" compensation to landowners.

The MPLA board approved 75 folders for immediate land compensation last month. This came soon after the CNMI government floated a \$40-million bond, with the proceeds to be used primarily to settle the longstanding land claims by individuals against the government. The first batch of claims included acquisition of rights-of-way.

The Land Compensation Act mandates the government to prioritize the payment for lands used for rights-of-way,

then ponding basins, and later wetlands and other claims.

The payment to landowners is based on the valuation at the time of taking by the Commonwealth.

The MPLA has listed some 120 eligible land claimants in the CNMI.

Of the \$40-million bond, only about \$27 million will be used for land compensation, as \$11 million has been allotted to fund a pending prison project. The bond's Hawaii-based underwriter also deducted \$1.5 million from the total amount for cost of the bond issuance.

The government is given 30 years to pay off the loan at an annual interest of 6.75 percent.

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Business

Simple steps for improving financial health

By EILEEN AMBROSE
THE BALTIMORE SUN

A perennial New Year's resolution is to get finances in shape.

But finances—which include taxes, credit cards, estate planning and investing—can be overwhelming. It's not surprising that financial resolve often quickly falls to the wayside, along with popular resolutions to exercise and lose weight.

That doesn't have to be the case. "You don't have to do it all at once," advised Harold Evensky, a financial planner in Coral Gables, Fla.

You can start with small steps, Evensky said. "Any beginning is a good beginning," he said.

So, here are a dozen simple financial steps—one for each month—that experts say can put you in better financial shape by year-end:

□ January: You acquire a 401(k), a couple of individual retirement accounts and some individual stocks and mutual funds, and pretty soon your portfolio is stuffed with all sorts of things.

"No one knows what they've got," said Mari Adam, a financial planner in Boca Raton, Fla.

Take this month to look at your holdings, and figure your asset allocation, or what percentage of your portfolio is in stocks, bonds and cash, Adam suggested. If you've never done this, you may find that your allocation is too aggressive or too conservative to meet your goals, and needs adjusting.

□ February: The limit on how much can be salted away in a 401(k) goes up this year by \$1,000 to \$13,000. Workers 50 and older can contribute an extra \$3,000, for a total of \$16,000.

Check with your employer to make sure you have increased your contributions, experts said. If the new limits seem too steep, try increasing your contributions by 1 percentage point, said Don Blandin, president of the American Savings Educa-

tion Council.

And, of course, if you're not participating in your employer's plan, sign up.

□ March: With the tax deadline nearing, it's a good time to organize your financial records. "Everybody has messy files," said J. Michael Martin, a financial planner in Columbia, Md.

How long do you keep tax records? The Internal Revenue Service generally audits returns within three years of filing, although it can go back further if there's a suspicion of fraud or under-reported income, Martin said. "Keep things seven years and you should be home free," Martin said.

□ April: Boost retirement savings. You have until April 15 to make a contribution to an IRA for 2003.

□ May: If you get hefty tax refunds year after year, it's time to adjust your Form W-4, which determines the amount of money your employer takes out each paycheck for taxes. This will put more money in your pocket throughout the year, instead of Uncle Sam's. The IRS' Web site at www.irs.gov features a calculator to figure the right withholding for you.

□ June: Many people don't know if they are saving too much for retirement, too little or are right on target because they never made the calculation.

Figure your savings goal by using one of the many online retirement calculators, such as American Savings Education Council's Ballpark Estimate at www.asec.org.

□ July: Got card debt? Look for a lower credit card rate so you can pay off balances faster, said Gerri Detweiler, author of "The Ultimate Credit Handbook." Check out www.debtsmart.com for advice on lowering your interest rate, she said.

No debt? Then look for a card that offers rewards. Generally, if annual charges are less than \$10,000, look for a card that offers perks with no annual fee, Detweiler said. If you charge

more than that, then it may be worth the annual fee to earn frequent flier miles, she said.

□ August: Review property and casualty coverage, which includes car, homeowner's and umbrella policies.

Even if your homeowner's policy provides replacement coverage, you can easily be underinsured if housing and labor costs have skyrocketed in your area or you've done extensive remodeling, experts said.

Save on premiums by increasing low deductibles on auto policies. Drivers usually don't make small claims any-

way because they push up premiums, experts said.

□ September: Review estate documents to see if they're up to date, said Thomas Grzymala, a financial planner in Alexandria, Va. This year, for example, the amount an individual can shield from estate taxes rises \$500,000 to \$1.5 million, which may require changes in your documents or planning, he said.

Also, be sure beneficiaries and guardians are still correct, he said.

Estate documents—will, living will, financial and health-care powers of attorney—aren't just for the rich. If you don't

have these papers, get started in drawing them up, experts said.

□ October: Get copies of your credit report, advised Barry Glassman, a financial planner in McLean, Va.

They can reveal if you're a victim of identity theft, or remind you of open credit cards that are unused but can negatively affect your credit score, Glassman said. This score is used by lenders and others to set credit terms offered to you.

□ November: Sign up at work for a flexible spending account for next year and reduce your taxes, advised Joanne Hamil-

ton, an educator with Maryland Cooperative Extension.

Workers' money goes into the account pretax, and they can use the cash to pay medical expenses without ever having to pay taxes on it. "It's like the federal government is helping you pay your health-care costs," Hamilton said. It also lowers adjusted gross income, which could make you eligible for other income-based tax deductions.

□ December: Donate to charity any clothes that you haven't worn in the past two years, Glassman said. Your closets will be cleaner and you get a tax deduction on the donation.

BOG

Showdown on global currency policies expected in February

On Feb. 6, amid pressing concerns over the dollar's decline against the euro, finance ministers from the Group of Seven leading industrial countries will convene in Boca Raton, Fla., largely to decide whether currency intervention is finally needed.

To the Europeans, there is little question. The euro's strength has punished the continent's exporters and threatens the European Union's nascent economic recovery. Wary of Europe's fate, the Japanese have been snapping up dollars to prop up the yen, and that action has left the Europeans bearing the consequences of the United States' soaring budget and trade deficits.

The EU would like to pressure Japan to let the yen rise. If investors eager to sell off dollar-denominated assets see an alternative currency to buy, that should take pressure off the euro. And most everyone at Boca would like to make clear they want currency "stability"—not "flexibility," as the Bush administration puts it. So far, the administration—benefiting from the surging exports and diminishing imports that the weak dollar has helped foster—is standing firm. And Treasury Secretary John Snow will be on his home turf.

But a prickly, behind-the-scenes showdown in Florida appears unavoidable. (*The Washington Post*)

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Stewart pleads innocent as trial starts

By ERIN McCLAM
AP WRITER

Martha Stewart waved to her supporters, strode into a Manhattan courthouse and repeated a plea of innocent at the formal start of her stock-trading trial Tuesday.

The 62-year-old millionaire gracious-living guru stood in court and nodded at the first batch of jurors, who were interviewed one by one in a judge's private robing room.

"Not guilty," Stewart said five times, speaking almost inaudibly and nodding as she re-entered her plea to five criminal counts related to her 2001 sale of nearly 4,000 shares of ImClone Systems.

Stewart, in a dark overcoat, clutched two bags as she stepped out of a black town car and said "Good morning" while passing a phalanx of cameras. She then climbed the courthouse steps and briefly waved to two fans standing in the freezing cold, including a man wearing a "Save Martha" chef's hat and matching apron.

In court, she produced a ballpoint pen and green stenographer's notebook and listened to U.S. District Judge Miriam Goldman Cedarbaum instruct the potential jurors on their role in the trial.

"Only you can determine what happened, and the verdict as to each count will be your decision alone," the judge said.

Cedarbaum told the potential jurors that opening statements will probably begin next week. The trial is expected to last into March.

Stewart faces 30 years in prison and penalties of \$1.25 million, although she would likely receive far less under federal sentencing guidelines if convicted.

Stewart is the highest-profile figure to stand trial since the government began its crackdown on corporate corruption two years ago.

She became the queen of home decor and amassed a fortune as the head of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, which stamped her style on everything from magazines and recipes to bed linens and bath



Martha Stewart arrives at a New York federal courthouse Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2004, for her first appearance at her closely watched trial.

towels. Her legions of supporters argue she is being targeted because of her celebrity status.

"This is a witch hunt," said Linda Smith, who took a two-hour bus ride from New Jersey to stand outside the courthouse in support of Stewart. "Martha's public believes her, believes in her innocence."

The ImClone stock fell sharply the day after Stewart's sale on a negative government report about an ImClone cancer drug. Prosecutors say Stewart lied to investigators to cover up that her stock sale was prompted by a tip that ImClone founder Sam Waksal was trying to sell his shares after getting advance word of the report.

Stewart claims she and her stockbroker had a pre-existing order to sell ImClone stock when it fell to \$60 per share.

The broker, Peter Bacanovic, also is charged with five criminal counts in the trial. Arriving in court after Stewart, he briefly leaned in to hug her and exchange kisses on the cheek.

Bacanovic, 41, also re-entered a plea of innocent to each count against him, clearly and emphatically repeating the phrase "not guilty." Bacanovic's five counts carry a total of 25 years and \$1.25 million.

Stewart and Bacanovic entered the same innocent pleas on June 4, the day they were indicted. They had to formally

re-enter them Tuesday because the government made last-minute changes to its indictment.

The jury selection process is routinely held in open court, but Cedarbaum closed it for this case, saying she was worried jurors might be less forthcoming with their answers if they knew reporters were in the room.

Instead, a transcript of each day's juror questioning will be provided to the press on the following day.

The first day was anticlimactic: After Stewart's entrance and the judge's instructions, potential jurors waited for hours as they were called individually for questioning. At least four potential jurors fell asleep.

SEC alleges Grant Thornton aided fraud

By MARCY GORDON
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Federal regulators have alleged that big accounting firm Grant Thornton contributed to a company's fraudulent reporting by lending its name and prestige to the work of a smaller auditing firm without fully checking its accuracy.

The action by the Securities and Exchange Commission, announced Tuesday, also named the smaller firm, Doeren Mayhew & Co., two of its directors and a Grant Thornton partner in connection with the firms' audit of MCA Financial Corp.'s 1998 financial statements.

Both firms disputed the SEC's allegations and said they would defend themselves in the agency's administrative proceeding.

An administrative law judge at the SEC, who will hear the case, could order the firms or the individuals to repay allegedly ill-gotten gains.

Suspension from auditing publicly traded companies is another possible penalty, although that would be a rare move.

Last May, the SEC sought to suspend Ernst & Young from accepting new corporate clients for six months because of its alleged failure to remain completely independent from companies whose books it audits. That case is still pending before a law judge.

It was the first time the agency had sought suspension of a major accounting firm since 1975.

In the MCA Financial case, the SEC said the auditors and firms knew that the mortgage-banking company based in Southfield, Mich., failed to disclose millions of dollars of third-party transactions and yet failed to take action and approved the statements. Their conduct contributed to company investors losing millions, the agency charged.

"In Grant Thornton's case, the firm rented out its name and prestige to the audit work of a smaller firm without taking adequate care to ensure that the audit was properly staffed and performed," Stephen Cutler, the SEC's enforcement director, said in a statement. "In Doeren Mayhew's case, the firm failed to ensure that the personnel assigned to the audit had the requisite expertise and acted with requisite care and skepticism."

In a statement, Chicago-based Grant Thornton said MCA had concealed its fraud and lied to the auditors.

"For 80 years, we have adhered to the highest standards of professionalism and we will vigorously defend ourselves against these charges," Grant Thornton said.

Rodger Young, an attorney representing Troy, Mich.-based Doeren Mayhew, said the SEC was "dead wrong."

Dow ends down 72 as Nasdaq gains 8

By MICHAEL J. MARTINEZ
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Investors intent on collecting profits from Friday's big gains looked past a series of positive earnings reports Tuesday, sending blue chip stocks moderately lower. The falling dollar and rising price of oil contributed to the selling.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 71.85, or 0.7 percent, at 10,528.66. Broader stock indicators were mixed. The Standard & Poor's 500 index was down 1.06, or 0.1 percent, at 1,138.77, while the Nasdaq composite index closed up 7.52, or 0.4 percent, at 2,147.98.

"This is the classic 'buy the rumor, sell the news' market," said Russ Koesterich, U.S. equity strategist for State Street Corp. "A lot of the stocks that reported today have already had huge runs. They beat estimates, yes, but not so much that they're being bid higher."

Tuesday's selling could foreshadow the next few weeks, even as most analysts expect total quarterly earnings to rise 20 percent over last year, according to Michael Murphy, head trader at Wachovia Securities in Baltimore.

While earnings were foremost on investors' minds, the rising price of oil and a continuing slide

in the dollar entered into some sellers' thoughts, according to Scott Wren, equity strategist for A.G. Edwards & Sons.

Prices for light, sweet crude closed up \$1.13 at \$36.20 a barrel, the highest price since before the Iraq war began, on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

"The market is pretty close to fair value as is," Wren said. "The dollar's a little weaker, and you have oil that could hit \$40 a barrel. That's part of the reason why you'll see some churn in the next few weeks along with the earnings."

With earnings season now under way, General Motors Corp. reported profits of \$1.47

per share, easily beating the \$1.22 expected by Wall Street analysts. Its stock dropped 20 cents to close at \$53.87.

Advancing issues outpaced decliners by more than 3 to 2 on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 1.72 billion shares in moderate trading, up from the 1.69 billion traded at the same point Friday.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies was up 7.57, or 1.3 percent, at 597.98.

Overseas, Japan's Nikkei stock average rose 0.6 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 closed down 0.4 percent, while France's CAC-40 and Germany's DAX index both finished down 0.8 percent.

STOCK	
ASIAN MARKETS	
Hong Kong	11,111.11
Shanghai	1,111.11
Taipei	1,111.11
Seoul	1,111.11
Manila	1,111.11
Bangkok	1,111.11
Beijing	1,111.11
London	1,111.11
Paris	1,111.11
Frankfurt	1,111.11
Stockholm	1,111.11
Copenhagen	1,111.11
Oslo	1,111.11
Stock	1,111.11
LEADING INDICATORS	
DOW	10,528.66
	-71.85
NASDAQ	2,147.98
	+7.52
S&P	1,138.77
	-1.06
MONEY MARKET	
3-Month T-Bill	1.00%
6-Month T-Bill	1.00%
1-Year T-Bill	1.00%
2-Year T-Bill	1.00%
3-Year T-Bill	1.00%
5-Year T-Bill	1.00%
10-Year T-Bill	1.00%
30-Year T-Bill	1.00%
1-Month T-Bill	1.00%
3-Month T-Bill	1.00%
6-Month T-Bill	1.00%
1-Year T-Bill	1.00%
2-Year T-Bill	1.00%
3-Year T-Bill	1.00%
5-Year T-Bill	1.00%
10-Year T-Bill	1.00%
30-Year T-Bill	1.00%



World



Across the Globe

Annan warns of narrow focus on terrorism

By PAUL GEITNER
AP WRITER

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)—U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan warned the United States and other rich countries Friday that a too-narrow focus on fighting terrorism could worsen global tensions and threaten human rights.

Addressing the World Economic Forum, the U.N. chief said international terrorism

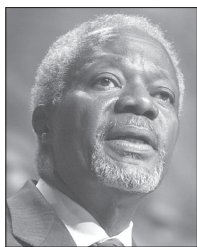
threatens peace and stability and "has the potential to exacerbate cultural, religious and ethnic dividing lines."

Yet in unusually blunt criticism apparently aimed at the Bush administration, he said that the war against terror also carried the risk of aggravating such tensions, "as well as raising concerns about protection of human rights and civil liberties."

The war on terror also has

redirected world attention and weapons of mass destruction. (But) the U.N. must also protect millions of our fellow men and women from the more familiar threats of poverty, hunger and deadly diseases."

The aftermath of the war and dealing with the threat of terrorism has been a running theme this year at the annual gathering of global



Annan

Health jitters shortening China's menus

By TED ANTHONY
AP WRITER

BEIJING (AP)—No more steaming platters of civet cat? Only a few southern Chinese hanker for them anyway. But look closer: Suddenly, China has no American beef and no South Korean wild boar. No cloven-hoofed animals from Tajikistan. No poultry from Vietnam and Japan.

In a country where people say "Have you eaten today?" when they mean hello and are renowned for stomaching just about anything, the world's health problems are shortening the menus these days.

Over the past month, on fears of SARS, bird flu, mad cow, foot-and-mouth disease and even hog cholera, China has banned those animals and their meats. And with bird flu con-

firmed in Thailand and Cambodia on Friday, more quarantine actions could be in store.

While the bans have so far had no major impact on the food supply of China's 1.3 billion people, and restaurant owners who use mostly domestic meat supplies insist they aren't worried, the actions are striking nonetheless in their very number.

"It is better to ban these products preemptively than to wait for major problems," said Chen Wei, an official with the China Meat Association, the industry's government-backed trade group.

"These prohibitions are beyond argument," he said. "We still lack a clear understanding of where these diseases are actually coming from. We're simply trying to protect Chinese consumers and Chinese industries."

The quarantines illustrate a growing official willingness to take swift action to reassure the populace that it is safe—whether from unemployment, the Falun Gong spiritual movement, criminals or foods considered risky.

Food safety has been a major issue in recent months in the tightly controlled state press. It has given wide coverage of initiatives to safeguard everything from the national grain supply to the fried-egg crepes sold as breakfast foods on the streets of Beijing.

That has only increased with the latest jitters - and particularly with more international coverage this month of the chance that exotica eaten by southern Chinese, particularly the civet, might be linked to severe acute respiratory syndrome. Civets

have been slaughtered by the thousands in the south.

On Sunday, the Beijing Daily Messenger newspaper ran a graphic front-page photograph of 800 piglets smuggled from Vietnam as pork being burned alive in tightly packed cages in the southern region of Guangxi. Masked health authorities looked on.

American beef has been sealed in its meat lockers in Beijing, border posts at China's frontier with Vietnam have been reinforced to prevent errant infected poultry from slipping in, and all border markets in Yunnan province have been barred from selling chickens.

There has been talk of seizing eggs as well, and Chinese agricultural inspectors around the country are scouring the domestic chicken supply beak by beak, looking for problems.

India wedding hall fire kills 45 people

MADRAS, India (AP)—Panicked guests tried to fight their way through flames and stampeded down a narrow hallway after fire struck a makeshift wedding hall Friday in southern India, killing 45 people—including the groom.

The bride, one of about 60 people injured, was hospitalized in serious condition.

The early morning blaze fire occurred in Srirangam, a famous Hindu temple town 200 miles south of Madras, the capital of southern Tamil Nadu state.

Police speculated that an electrical fault ignited the thatch roof of a pavilion set up for the party on the terrace of a one-story building. The fire spread quickly.

Wedding guest S. Rangayyan, who was standing near the exit, described a horrific scene of screaming guests trying to get to the building's sole stairwell, which was only wide enough for one person to go down at a time.

terror," he said. "Freedom has never been free."

On the sidelines, government ministers sought to revive global trade talks, but failed to find a way Friday.

Annan has appealed for progress on a trade deal "that will help the poor." But Swiss President Joseph Deiss, who chaired the meeting, said he now thought it was impossible to conclude a new pact by the end of the year as planned.

"Old people, women and children could not force their way out," he told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

Santhana Krishnan, a state agricultural official whose aunt and uncle were hospitalized, said witnesses told him the burning roof collapsed on the guests.

"They all panicked and ran in all directions. They stepped on each other," Krishnan.

Rangayyan said weddings are normally held in the building's ground-floor hall, but this one was moved to the makeshift pavilion because there were so many guests.

The bride, Jaishree Ramanathan, a 35-year-old teacher, was in serious condition, said K. Manivasan, the top administrator for Tiruchi district in southern Tamil Nadu state.

Many of the dead and injured were co-workers of the groom, Guru Raghavender, 38, at an insurance office, Rangayyan said.

US, Japan discuss mad cow measures

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese and U.S. officials Friday reviewed steps by Washington to improve safeguards against mad cow disease, but the Americans failed to convince the world's largest buyer of U.S. beef to resume imports.

Japan is one of 30 nations that halted imports after a cow in Washington state tested positive last month for the brain-wasting disease also known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

Before Japan resumes imports, it wants the United States to begin testing all cattle for mad cow disease or implement a similarly comprehensive safety system.

Japan, which suffered its first case of mad cow disease in 2001, tests every slaughtered cow for the illness. But U.S. agriculture officials say blanket testing would not significantly improve the safety of the U.S. beef supply.

"We think that it's not an efficient use, effective use of resources to do massive testing of younger animals, where the disease is very unlikely to manifest itself," said Undersecretary for Farm and Agricultural Services J.B. Penn. "We think those resources should be devoted to the higher risk population."



J.B. Penn, right, U.S. undersecretary for farm and agricultural services, shakes hands with Hiroshi Nakagawa, head of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry's Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau, at the start of their meeting at the agriculture ministry in Tokyo Friday, Jan. 23, 2004.

Penn headed a delegation that met with Japanese officials Friday to review new U.S. safety measures introduced last month that included a ban on meat from cows unable to walk or stand on their own, and faster testing of animals at higher risk because of age or the presence of neurological problems.

A Japanese team that visited

the United States and Canada earlier this month concluded that U.S. measures were still inadequate.

Washington did not propose any further changes to its safety measures during Friday's meeting, but the two sides agreed to continue talks next month when Penn said he expected them to discuss "more concrete steps

that would lead to the resumption of trade."

His Japanese counterpart, however, said Japan was waiting for new proposals from Washington.

"It is up to the United States whether the next meeting will yield substantial negotiations toward resuming trade," said Hiroshi Nakagawa, an Agriculture Ministry official.

2 pilots die in Iraq copter crash

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)—A U.S. Army OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter attached to the 101st Airborne Division crashed Friday in northern Iraq, killing the two pilots, the U.S. military said.

The helicopter went down about 8:30 p.m. near Qayyarah, some 30 miles south of Mosul, the military said.

The cause of the crash was unclear. The military said "an initial report from the accompanying second helicopter did not make mention of hostile activity."

Friday's deaths brought to 507 the number of American service members who have died since a U.S.-led coalition launched the Iraq war March 20. Most of the deaths have occurred since President Bush declared an end

to active combat May 1.

It was the fourth helicopter crash suffered by U.S. forces in Iraq this month.

On Jan. 2, an Army OH-58 Kiowa Warrior helicopter was shot down near the central city of Fallujah, killing one pilot. Six days later, an Army Black Hawk medevac helicopter was shot down by a rocket near Fallujah, killing all nine U.S. soldiers aboard.

A U.S. Army Apache attack helicopter was brought down by apparent enemy fire on Jan. 13, but both crew members escaped injury.

On Nov. 15, two U.S. Army Black Hawk helicopters collided and crashed in Mosul, killing 17 American soldiers in the U.S. military's worst single loss of life since the Iraq war began.

Good Housekeeping

Choose components carefully, cross your fingers

By KEVIN HUNT
THE HARTFORD COURANT

Everyone gets caught up in the season of giving, neglecting to face its consequences: the season of returning. But it's here (already?) and many of the camcorders, MP3 players and plasma TVs that were tucked under the Christmas tree were on their way back to the store this month.

Some were merely unwanted—that iPod for Grandpa Nick was doomed from the start—but it's likely an alarming number simply didn't work.

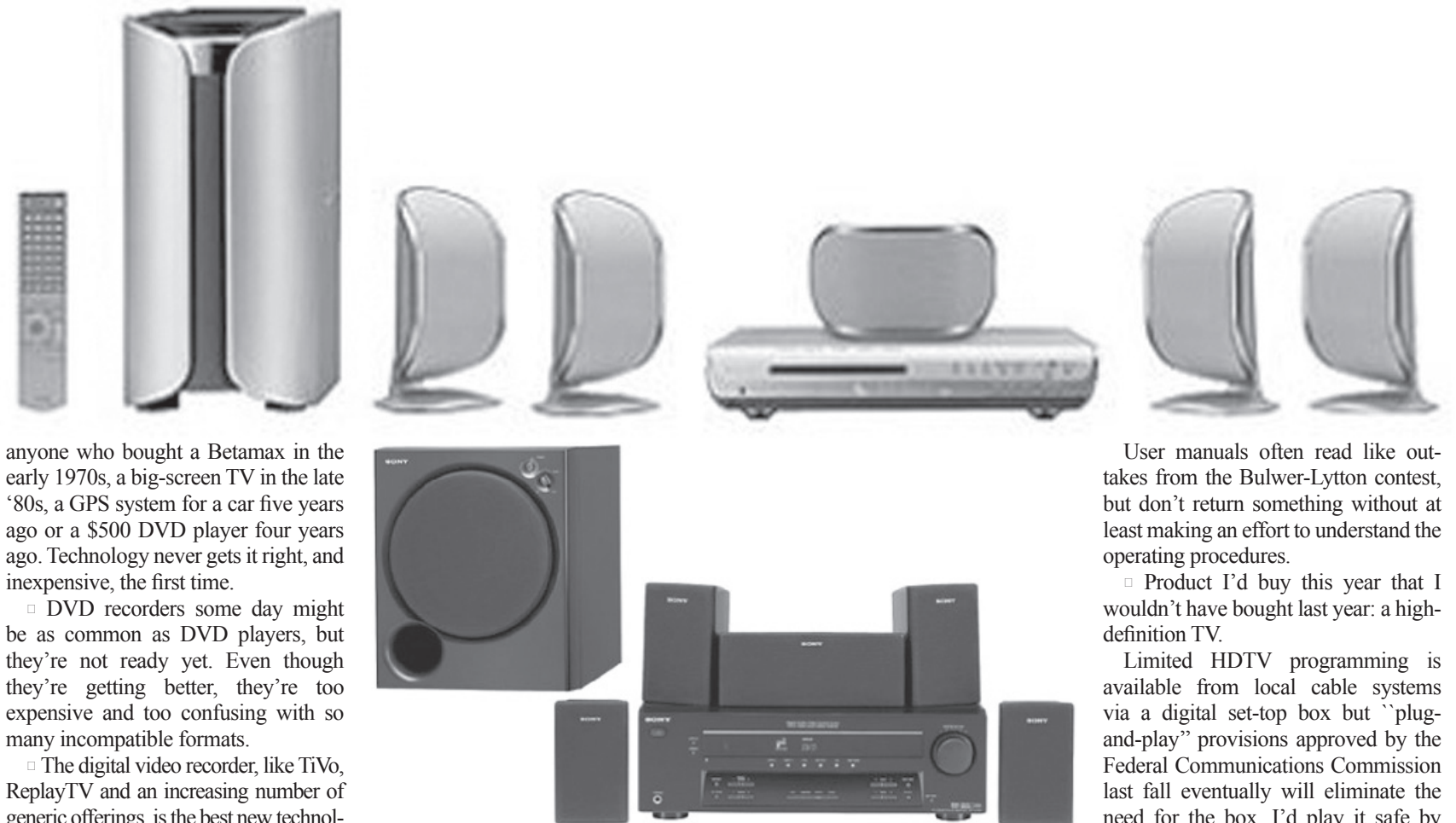
A study in late 2000 by the Consumer Electronics Association, a trade association, found that 8 million households returned at least one electronic product in the previous two years shortly after purchasing it or receiving it as a gift.

"About 50 percent was due to some mechanical defect or problem," says Sean Wargo, the CEA's director of industry analysis. "The remainder was not what they wanted."

Nothing has changed. Although the CEA has not refreshed the study, Wargo says the numbers still apply. Now let your faithful reviewer crunch a few recent numbers: In the past month, I've been sent for review two DVD recorders that did not work and a digital video recorder that needed a digital lobotomy before it could download a daily programming guide. That's either extremely bad luck or a trend.

How to avoid the dead-on-arrival or too-young-to-die blues? Choose your components carefully, then cross your fingers. A few pointers:

□ Don't be the first on your block with new electronic technology. Ask



anyone who bought a Betamax in the early 1970s, a big-screen TV in the late '80s, a GPS system for a car five years ago or a \$500 DVD player four years ago. Technology never gets it right, and inexpensive, the first time.

□ DVD recorders some day might be as common as DVD players, but they're not ready yet. Even though they're getting better, they're too expensive and too confusing with so many incompatible formats.

□ The digital video recorder, like TiVo, ReplayTV and an increasing number of generic offerings, is the best new technology to hit consumer electronics since the DVD player. But it costs too much. Prices with monthly or lifetime channel-guide subscriptions have kept starting prices at about \$500.

Consumers don't care much about new technology (excluding big-screen TVs) until it hits \$300, then start buying when prices drop even lower. DVD players didn't take off until prices approached \$200.

The digital video recorder is a

VCR with brains, storage capacity like a mini-computer and no tape. In one form or another, the digital video recorder is destined to rival the DVD player in popularity, if prices permit.

□ The lowest price isn't always the best buy.

Really, how long will a \$29 off-brand DVD player last? Slightly longer than a bag of throwaway razors? Stick with the familiar brands, particularly

with new technology.

□ Don't be awed by new technology.

Plasma and LCD televisions look great, but they're also expensive and in some ways inferior to a basic analog set. (Try watching them from an angle.) Wait till the prices come down and wait till they get the technology right.

□ Make sure the product actually doesn't work before you give up and return it.

User manuals often read like outtakes from the Bulwer-Lytton contest, but don't return something without at least making an effort to understand the operating procedures.

□ Product I'd buy this year that I wouldn't have bought last year: a high-definition TV.

Limited HDTV programming is available from local cable systems via a digital set-top box but "plug-and-play" provisions approved by the Federal Communications Commission last fall eventually will eliminate the need for the box. I'd play it safe by getting a set with a High-Definition Multimedia Interface or Digital Visual Interface/High-bandwidth Digital Content Protection, for now the most likely digital audio-video connections of the future.

Prices for HDTV have dropped to as low as \$700 for a 27-inch set. And if you have a surround-sound system, you can plug into HDTV's Dolby Digital signal. That combination is home theater at its best.

Kate Spade's new bag is home accessories

By ANNIE GROER
THE WASHINGTON POST

Designer Kate Spade—purveyor of preppy-with-attitude handbags, shoes and other fashion accessories—has entered the home decor market. And she's brought along her signature stripes, dots and vivid geometrics.

Spade's maiden collection of china, crystal, flatware, vases and votives is made by Lenox. Come May, she'll unveil bedding, towels, rugs and accessories from Springs Industries, followed by an autumn launch of wallpaper and fabric from Scalomandre.

But don't expect to see her name on sofas, chairs and armoires anytime soon. "I am not looking at furniture but what goes on the furniture," she said. All those sheets, pillowcases, duvet covers, martini glasses, carving sets, goblets, coffee pots and platters are meant to embellish other designers' tables and beds, just as Spade's shoes and shades accent other folks' frocks.

Although Kate Spade accessories are wildly popular, and widely copied, "just the name doesn't do anything," says Frank Guzzetta, president of Hecht's, which begins selling the collection in select Washington area stores

later this month. "We were skeptical, wondering what's a person coming out of the accessories business going to do in the home business."

But "it's a winner," he adds. "The table-top world is looking for a new approach to china. The younger customer and modern bride want something clean, with a new feel to it. This has a lot of fashion and design—new colors, new shapes, mix and match, but it's not so far out."

Select branches of Bloomingdale's, Macy's and Neiman Marcus (which owns a piece of Spade's company) will also carry some or all of the collection. Formal china runs \$109 to \$129 for a five-piece place setting, with stainless-steel flatware at \$50 per place setting.

In a perfect world, the designer's home collection would have launched months ago, in time for the holidays. But it was delayed by a dispute with Platform, the Manhattan firm Spade hired in 2001 to help with product design and licensing agreements.

In November, Platform and two of its three principals filed suit in New York, alleging Spade's company owes them money for their work and has used Platform designs meant solely for the home collection on fashion items.

Attorney Barry I. Slotnick, perhaps best known for defending New York subway shooter Bernhard Goetz, is seeking "north of \$25 million in punitive damages" for his Platform clients, he said by phone. "There is no question when it comes to counterfeits and knockoffs you will find Kate Spade on the right side. In this case, it is our contention they are on the wrong side."

But Barbara Kolsun, Spade's general counsel, said in a written statement that Platform's suit is based on "meritless claims and false accusations." Earlier this month, the fashion house, founded in 1993 by the former Kate Brosnahan and her now-husband, Andy Spade, counter-sued, alleging Platform breached its contract by failing to meet deadlines and produce enough designs and licensing agreements. As a result, Spade "was unable to launch even one home collection product category by fall 2003," according to the legal documents.

Her lawyers want Platform to repay a \$150,000 advance, plus at least \$1.27 million in compensatory damages.

Unlike many design-conscious couples, Kate and Andy Spade did not register for china, silver or linens when they married a decade ago.



HANDOUT PHOTO

Designer Kate Spade, purveyor of preppy-with-attitude handbags, shoes and other fashion accessories, has entered the home decor market. Spade's china has the bright energy fans find in her fashion accessories design.

Life & Style

Final episode of 'Friends' being filmed

By LYNN ELBER
AP TELEVISION WRITER

"Friends" had the last laugh Friday. The final episode of the hit NBC series, which ends its 10-year run in May, was being filmed at the Warner Bros. studio Friday night.

Series stars Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox Arquette, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc, Matthew Perry and David Schwimmer were to trade their last quips and inevitable hugs around midnight.

"Friends" tended toward long production days and, with emotions running high and an extended, hour-long finale to film, a quick finish was unlikely on Stage 24, the sitcom's longtime home.

The mood this week has been "deeply emotional, very sad," Peter Roth, president of Warner Bros. Television, said Friday. "But beyond the sadness, I think there is an enormous sense of accomplishment."

The cast, which shared real-life friendships as well as highly productive salary negotiations, talked with reporters last week about the series' end.

"We're like very delicate china right now," said Aniston, who plays single mom Rachel. "And we're speeding towards a brick wall, inevitable pain."

Said Kudrow: "Looking back on all

the fun ... is not going to help me leave. I mean, that's exactly what I can't be thinking about because that's the saddest part for me."

The actors have the chance to drown their sorrows at a wrap party Saturday, being held at a secret location in the Los Angeles area.

Friday's studio audience was limited to "a very special, invited guest list," Roth said. Measures were taken to safeguard plot leaks, according to the show's producers.

"There are elements that the audience will not be seeing that we'll be

shooting before the audience comes in," series creator and executive producer Marta Kauffman said last week. "And then you just keep your fingers crossed that everybody lives up to what they say that they will."

However the May 6 finale plays out, will "Friends" fans be satisfied?

"As one of the show's biggest fans, I am enormously satisfied with it. I was enormously satisfied with the

script, and I certainly hope fans will be satisfied as well," Roth said.

The top-rated comedy for the last six seasons, "Friends" is going out in style. Thirty-second ads for the show are reportedly fetching \$2 million, close to Super Bowl prices, according to Horizon Media, an ad buying firm.

In its 10 years, "Friends" received six nominations for best comedy series

and won the award once, in 2002. A spinoff starring LeBlanc, "Joey," is set to debut next season on NBC.



AP

This is a 1979 file photo of Bob Keeshan, left, in character as television's Captain Kangaroo with Cosmo Allegretti, who plays Dennis the Painter.

Captain Kangaroo subtly taught kids

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP TELEVISION WRITER

When asked to compare "Sesame Street" with his own kids show, Bob Keeshan would praise the PBS series for its carefully formatted focus on building math and language skills.

"Captain Kangaroo," on the other hand, preferred an easygoing liberal-arts tack. As played by Keeshan, the kindly Captain each day invited children to browse through his Treasure House, which, in effect, was a museum full of toys, companions and amusing ideas. There, kids found knowledge for its own sake along with freeform lessons for coexisting in the world—and they never knew what hit them.

You didn't learn to count to 10 or contemplate which thing wasn't like the others with the Captain. The most didactic he would ever get was during the arts-and-crafts segment, guiding you through making something fun from Dad's shirt cardboard with your glue and rounded-tip scissors.

All this was a radical notion for TV. When "Captain Kangaroo" premiered in the mid-1950s—more than a decade before "Sesame Street" and years before "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood"—children's programming mostly consisted of old cartoons with vaudevillian hosts.

Keeshan chose a more enlightened path.

The Captain and his friends, no matter how loopy they might act, seldom lost their dignity and always treated one another with respect.

The humor, which was plentiful, was unfailingly gentle. For instance, Mr. Moose, a puppet pal, loved the sight of bouncing Ping Pong balls—with which the Treasure House would be showered by the hundreds at the most inconvenient times.

Bunny Rabbit was always scheming to sneak carrots, even as he displayed a sight-gag retort to his heavy carrot intake: eyeglasses.

And Grandfather Clock, with whom the Captain would chat each day, had a habit of dozing off in mid-sentence.



Police mull Michael Jackson security changes

By TIM MOLLOY
AP WRITER

Authorities in Santa Barbara County are considering security changes for Michael Jackson's next court date after hundreds of fans surged into the street last week to watch the pop star dance on top of his SUV after his arraignment.

Police were frustrated by the scene along Miller Street in Santa Maria, a well-traveled, mostly residential street outside the courthouse in the small central California town.

"The whole event could have been prevented if he'd just gotten in his van and driven away," police Lt. Chris Vaughan said. "It was like a beckoning to come forward. We're hoping he does not do that again."

The mob scene occurred on Jan. 16 after Jackson pleaded innocent to child molestation charges and was scolded by the judge for arriving 20 minutes late to court. Jackson's attorneys said he had been delayed by the crowd.

The next hearing is scheduled for Feb. 13, but it was unclear whether

Jackson would attend. A statement posted Friday on a fan Web site said supporters would be advised of court dates so they could plan to attend.

About 1,500 people converged on the courthouse for the arraignment, including fans and news media from around the world. Barricades held back crowds and formed a long walkway that Jackson used to move between the street and the building.

Jackson entered and left safely, and no fans or members of the media were hurt.

Nevertheless, authorities from several law enforcement agencies handling security could meet next week to discuss possible moves that include changing the way Jackson enters the courthouse, Vaughan said.

"Obviously we're going to do our best to extend the barricades a little further," he said.

Santa Maria police and the Sheriff's Department are the main agencies handling courthouse security, with help from the California Highway Patrol and the FBI.

Oscars statuettes go on view in Chicago

By TARA BURGHART
AP WRITER

Lori Anne Summers would like to thank the Academy—for letting her view an Oscar statuette in person.

For the first time, 50 Oscars went on display to the public before being presented on stage to the winners.

"They're just beautiful, spectacular. You look at them and it's just breathtaking," said Summers, a devoted watcher of the Academy Awards, said Friday as she ogled them at Museum of Science and Industry. "I want to touch them."

Not a good idea.

Almost four years after 55 Oscars were stolen from a loading dock in Los Angeles, the gold statuettes are protected behind alarm-rigged, inch-thick glass with at least one security guard constantly posted nearby.

"They're worth millions to whoever receives them," said Noreen Prohaska of R.S. Owens, the Chicago company that has manufactured the statues for 21 years. "That's all I can say about the cost of them."

The Oscars—13.5 inches tall and 8.5 pounds—are in five display cases behind a red carpet and velvet ropes. Their pedestal is blank; R.S. Owens will manufacture personalized plates after the winners are announced at this year's ceremony Feb. 29.

Five accompanying exhibit

cases detail how the statuettes are made. An alloy similar to pewter is placed in a mold to create the famous design of a knight holding a crusader's

identification number.

Museum visitor Bonnie Jordan said she watches the Academy Awards every year. She spent several minutes gazing at

less my children become actors and actresses."

Last year, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Academy Awards, a collection of 75

Oscars belonging to past winners was exhibited in Hollywood, said Dawn Newell, a spokeswoman for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. But this is the first time the Oscars that have yet to be awarded have been put on public display, she said.

The decision to do so in Chicago came from the fact that the statues are made here, as well as being a tie-in to the museum's upcoming exhibit, "Action! An Adventure in Moviemaking," opening May 28.

The Oscar display will end Feb. 18. The next day, the statuettes will be flown to Los Angeles.

"It's amazing. I've seen every Oscar statue that they're going to give out on Oscar night," said Signe Nordstrom, who added that she sometimes watches the Oscars in the middle of the night in her home country of Sweden.

As museum visitors oohed and ahed over the gleaming Oscar statuettes Friday, many struggled to explain their appeal.

Prohaska said she had an idea.

"It's been around 76 years. Oscar is an old man, who never ages. It exudes excellence," she said. "We all strive for our achievements, and Oscar is one of the highest that people can achieve."



Ten Oscars to be presented during the 76th Annual Academy Awards stand in a glass case after the unveiling of a temporary exhibit of the statuettes Friday, Jan. 23, 2004, at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

sword and standing on a film reel. Then the statue is plated in layers of nickel, copper, silver and 24-karat gold—before being heavily coated in a clear lacquer and engraved with an

the little gold men.

"I don't plan on pursuing an acting career at this stage of my life," she said, laughing. "So this is the only time that I'm ever going to get to see them—un-

McCartney's wife having surgery

Paul McCartney's wife, Heather, must undergo major pelvic surgery nearly two months after the birth of her baby, her spokeswoman said Friday.

Metal plates inserted in her pelvis following a road accident 11 years ago need to be replaced as a result of the pregnancy, spokeswoman Anya Noakes said.

Heather Mills McCartney, 36, had her first child, Beatrice, on Oct. 28. She gave birth by Caesarean section.

"The weight of the baby has caused the plates to come apart," Noakes said. "She is feeling very uncomfortable."

Mills McCartney's pelvis was shattered and her left leg was severed below the knee when she was hit by a police vehicle in August 1993. The plates were inserted to hold her pelvis together.

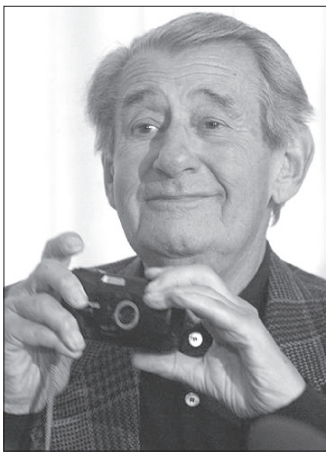
Noakes said doctors wanted to operate on the former Beatle's wife as soon as possible and were discussing various options. (AP)

Helmut Newton killed in crash

Acclaimed photographer Helmut Newton was killed in a car crash Friday, police said. He was 83.

Newton, a fashion photographer whose work appeared in magazines such as Playboy, Elle and Vogue, was best known for his stark, black-and-white nude photos.

Newton lost control of his Cadillac while leaving the Chateau Marmont hotel in Hollywood and crashed into a wall across the street, said Officer April Harding, a police spokeswoman.



Newton

Before hitting the wall, the car brushed an Associated Press photographer who was arriving at the hotel on an unrelated assignment.

Newton was taken to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, where he died a short time later, Harding said.

Newton, who was Jewish, fled Germany for Singapore in December 1938, a month after Nazi-led pogroms. He eventually settled in Australia and became a citizen, then took up residence in Monte Carlo. (AP)

DeLuise's daughter-in-law suing him

Dom DeLuise's daughter-in-law is suing him for \$2 million, claiming the comic actor conspired to cut her off financially.

Brigitte DeLuise, who's estranged from her husband, actor David DeLuise, filed the lawsuit Wednesday in Superior Court.

She alleges that her husband assured her that all assets would be "both of theirs."

After a falling out with Dom DeLuise, her lawsuit claims, her

father-in-law conspired with his financial advisers, Page & Ma Business Management, to limit her rights and access to funds. Ownership of a West Hollywood home is part of the dispute.

Brigitte and David DeLuise, who married in September 1994, have two daughters. She sued for divorce last May.

A message seeking comment from Dom DeLuise, 70, was

left with his management company. Frank Page, of Page & Ma Business Management, said he hadn't seen the lawsuit and had no comment.

Dom DeLuise's films include "The Muppet Movie," "Fatso" and the first two "Cannonball Run" movies.

David DeLuise appeared on the sitcom "3rd Rock From the Sun" and in films including "Robin Hood: Men in Tights." (AP)

Car accident forces mom to reorder her priorities

By AVIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I have always believed my home and family are a reflection of me. My spotless home and my children defined me as a success. When an auto accident left me in traction and unable to leave my bed, I learned a new definition of success.

A special neighbor who had recently graduated from college was job-hunting without much luck. Every morning she would come over, get my kids ready for school and clean my house, while I lay in bed feeling sorry for myself.

The one thing I WAS able to do from my bed was talk to my children. I read to them every night at bedtime. For the first time, I listened to them without distraction. I heard them laugh. I held them when they cried. I didn't think about dirty dishes or laundry—I just thought about THEM. In other words, I was a real mom for the first time in their lives.

When I was finally able to get out of bed and do things for myself, I wrote a long letter of gratitude to my neighbor and tucked it into her pocket as she left. Imagine my surprise when she showed up at my door bright and early the next morning. Over coffee, she tearfully told me how much helping me had meant to her. She had been considering suicide because she didn't feel she had a purpose in life. Helping me gave her a purpose and snapped her out of her depression.

Abby, I have learned many things from this experience. I have learned that smiles on my children's faces are far more important than shiny floors and sparkling windows. I have also learned that giving help is as important as receiving it. My house may not be as clean as it was before, but my children will never have to compete with housework again.

THANKFUL IN TEXAS

DEAR THANKFUL: Thank you for sharing the insight you have gained. It seems the auto accident was a life-changing experience, not only for you, but also for those around you. I agree, your house may not be as tidy as it was before your accident, but your priorities are now in order, and that's far more important.

DEAR ABBY: My dad died two years ago, leaving my mother alone after 49 years of a wonderful marriage. My sister and I helped Mom move into an assisted-living facility where she has adjusted as well as can be expected.

My dad worked hard, saved well, and left Mom with no financial concerns. Our dilemma is that Mom, a very trusting person, has now befriended a man who is a known con artist. This man has been in severe financial trouble for more than 20 years and has asked Mom for a large sum of money, which she agreed to give him. He also informed her that this sum of money may not be enough to resolve his problems.

Abby, this man has been caught in several lies, but Mom insists she's doing the right thing. We are certain he intends to drain Mom of 50 years of hard work and savings. How can we help her? We need to help her understand this man's true motives. We both love her dearly.

WORRIED SICK IN ALABAMA

DEAR WORRIED SICK: Warn your mother's attorney about what's going on, and if necessary, call the police. A con man who smells money has as much conscience as a shark who smells blood in the water, and it appears your mother is in over her head. Please don't wait.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$5 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



Raymond upsets Venus at Australian Open

By JOHN PYE
AP SPORTS WRITER



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Venus Williams' bid for a big return came to an abrupt end.

Sidelined for six months because of an abdominal injury, Williams breezed through the first two rounds of the Australian Open before being upset 6-4, 7-6 (5) by 25th-seeded Lisa Raymond on Saturday.

"I'm pretty much in shock," Williams said. "I definitely had some high hopes to win here."

The third-seeded Williams saved one match point with a backhand crosscourt winner at 4-6 in the tiebreaker, but put a forehand return wide on the next point to end the match.

"I still can't believe it - it's going to settle in this evening," Williams said. "It'll be like, 'No!'"

It was the first time Williams hasn't reached the quarterfinals in six trips to the Australian Open. She lost last year's final to her sister, Serena.

It was the biggest upset at the Australian Open since Jennifer Capriati, then defending champion, lost in the first round last year to Marlene Weingartner.

Williams, a four-time Grand Slam champion, had been absent from tournament play since losing the Wimbledon final to Serena last July. She played two exhibition matches in Hong Kong before coming to Melbourne and having straight-sets wins in the first two rounds.

Asked if she was not 100 percent, Williams said: "Everybody has their issues. I don't want to get into it."

For Raymond, a former top-ranked doubles player, it was her first win over Venus Williams, who gave a brief wave to the crowd and quickly walked off the court.

Raymond said it was the match of her life.

"I couldn't ask anything more of myself today," she said. "I think I played an incredible match."

"It's pretty difficult to play someone who is serving like that today. I came into this match knowing I had to step up to the plate and go for it - I stepped up to the plate and I believed. It's the only way I was going to win."

Williams had 44 unforced errors. Four of her seven double-faults were in the first two games. She got her serve back on track and had 14 aces and 40 winners, but didn't have a match for Raymond's pinpoint forehands.

Raymond, 30, had 23 winners, including 14 on her forehand side. She broke Williams twice to take a 3-0 lead and forced an error to win the first set on her fifth set point.

The pair traded breaks to open third before Raymond held to lead 3-1.

Williams finally got her serve working, firing three aces in the next game and then breaking Raymond to level at 3-3. She served another two aces, including one at 193 kph (120 mph) to take a 4-3 lead, but Raymond won her next service game at love.

Williams opened the tiebreaker with an ace before Raymond won the next four points. Williams leveled it at 4-4 with an ace. She served a fault, a let and then Raymond pounced on the second serve with a backhand that forced an error to establish a 5-4 lead.

"In the tiebreak I probably went for too much, too soon," Williams said. "I guess I'll have a lot of time to think about it now."

Raymond had never gone beyond the third-round at Melbourne Park. Her best per-



Lisa Raymond of the U.S. raises her arms in celebration after defeating compatriot Venus Williams in their third round match at the Australian Open in Melbourne, Australia, Saturday, Jan. 24, 2004. Raymond defeated Williams in straight sets 6-4, 7-6.

formance in a Grand Slam tournament was the quarterfinals at Wimbledon in 2000.

Raymond will next play French teenager Tatiana Golovin, who upset 23rd-seeded Lina Krasnoroutskaya 6-2, 7-6 (4).

Russian-born Golovin, who

will celebrate her 16th birthday Sunday, had won only one match on the WTA Tour before her first three wins here at Melbourne Park.

Williams' shocking loss overshadowed wins by other high-profile players, including

No. 2-ranked Kim Clijsters' 6-2, 6-1 win over Russia's Dinara Safina.

Wimbledon champion Roger Federer beat teenage wild-card entry Todd Reid 6-3, 6-0, 6-1.

Federer, seeded second, dropped serve in the fifth game

of the first set, then reeled off 14 consecutive games to win the first two sets and take a 4-0 lead in the third.

The 22-year-old Swiss star won eight of the last nine points to finish off the match in 74 minutes.

Reid, 19, struggled through the second round in a grueling five-set win over Armenia's Sargis Sargsian.

Federer didn't give him any reprieve, firing 31 winners and earning his third straight-sets win in three rounds to match his best performance in the season-opening Grand Slam event.

"I played well, had my difficulties in the start, but it went better in the end," Federer said. "I'm just happy to be again through to the fourth round. I hope I can go better this time."

Federer will face the winner of a night match between Australia's Lleyton Hewitt, a former U.S. Open and Wimbledon champion, and 17-year-old Spaniard Rafael Nadal.

Eighth-seeded David Nalbandian of Argentina beat veteran South African Wayne Ferreira 6-2, 6-4, 7-5; Wimbledon finalist Mark Philippoussis, seeded 10th, beat Mario Ancic of Croatia 6-4, 7-6 (2), 6-2; while Romania's Andre Pavel upset 14th-seeded Jiri Novak 4-6, 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (3), 6-4.

French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero played Sweden's Joachim Johansson later Saturday.

In women's third-round singles, sixth-seeded Anastasia Myskina beat 28th-seeded Maria Sharapova 6-4, 1-6, 6-2 in an all-Russian match; ninth-seeded Chanda Ruben beat Russian Elena Likhovtseva 6-3, 6-2; 20th-seeded Silvia Farina Elia of Italy rallied for a 4-6, 6-1, 7-5 win over American Amy Frazier; and 29th-seeded Nathalie Dechy of France took two hours to beat Japan's Saori Obata 7-5, 6-1 in a match riddled with 78 unforced errors.

Reliever Shingo Takatsu joins White Sox

CHICAGO (AP)—Shingo Takatsu brushed up on his English before he was introduced Friday as the newest member of the Chicago White Sox.

"I'm very excited to be here," said the reliever known as "Mr. Zero" who is Japan's career saves leader. "Chicago is my field of dreams."

Takatsu officially signed his \$1 million, one-year contract, autographed a ball for the White Sox Hall of Fame as the team's first Japanese player, pulled on a No. 10 jersey and ventured out onto the snow-covered U.S. Cellular Field for a photo op.

Now, can he get major league hitters out and will he be a closer or a setup man?

Takatsu that from watching TV and talking with friends Kazuhisa Ishii and Shigetoshi Hasegawa, he understands he

differences between the brand of baseball he left and what's he's about to face.

"I have only seen those batters on TV. I could see the power," he said through a translator.

During a tryout, the White Sox scouted Takatsu, who had 260 career saves in 13 seasons for the Yakult Swallows. When general manager Ken Williams watched tape, he liked what he saw - sinking and moving pitches, a sidearm delivery and an ability as a right-hander to get out left-handed hitters.

And even if Takatsu hasn't faced major league hitters, those hitters haven't seen him, either.

"There is an element of uniqueness and surprise" that was factored in, Williams said. "He will get outs for us. This guy can pitch."

Bryant's lawyers bring up issue of race

By JON SANCHE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

EAGLE, Colo. (AP)—Kobe Bryant's defense team raised the issue of race in court Friday, saying black men have long been falsely accused of rape by white women.

Attorney Pamela Mackey made the comment during a hearing that will help determine whether the medical history of the woman accusing Bryant of sexual assault can be used against her at trial.

Mackey has previously angered victims' advocates with her attempts to undermine the credibility of the Los Angeles Lakers star's 19-year-old accuser.

Even as defense attorneys pressed for access to the woman's medical history, they also asked the judge to seal a tape of Bryant's police interrogation

because he made "intensely personal" statements to detectives.

They did not detail what Bryant said, but argued that his privacy rights should be protected just as much as those of his accuser.

It was Bryant's third appearance before the trial judge. He faces four years to life in prison or 20 years to life on probation if convicted of sexual assault. Bryant, 25, has said he had consensual sex with the employee of a mountain resort last June.

Mackey's remark Friday came during a squabble over the notes of a rape crisis center worker who sat in on a police interview with Bryant's accuser. The defense wants access to the notes.

Inga Causey, attorney for the Resource Center of Eagle County, said releasing more details about the woman would discourage rape victims from

coming forward. She said such assault reports dropped in Florida after William Kennedy Smith was acquitted of sexual assault - a case in which his accuser's medical history was targeted by defense attorneys.

Mackey, however, urged the judge to focus on the Bryant case and avoid the "political agenda of the rape crisis center."

"My client stands accused of a very serious crime. There is lots of history about black men being falsely accused of this crime by white women," Mackey said as several family members of the accuser watched. She did not address the issue further.

It was the first time defense attorneys made such a suggestion in open court, though they raised the idea in a court filing last week. They have also said the woman, who is white, had a "scheme" to falsely accuse Bry-

ant in hopes of winning attention from an ex-boyfriend.

Legal experts said it was inevitable race would become a factor in the high-profile case.

"They will give the jury a smorgasbord of reasons why the rape allegation was false," said Craig Silverman, a Denver defense attorney. "They're giving jurors a hook to hang their reasonable-doubt hat on."

Added former prosecutor Wendy Murphy, a professor at the New England School of Law: "This is just the beginning, the subtle steps, of what will eventually be a very blatant race-card strategy."

During a previous preliminary hearing, Mackey repeatedly mentioned the accuser's name and suggested the woman may have had sex with multiple partners before her encounter with Bryant.

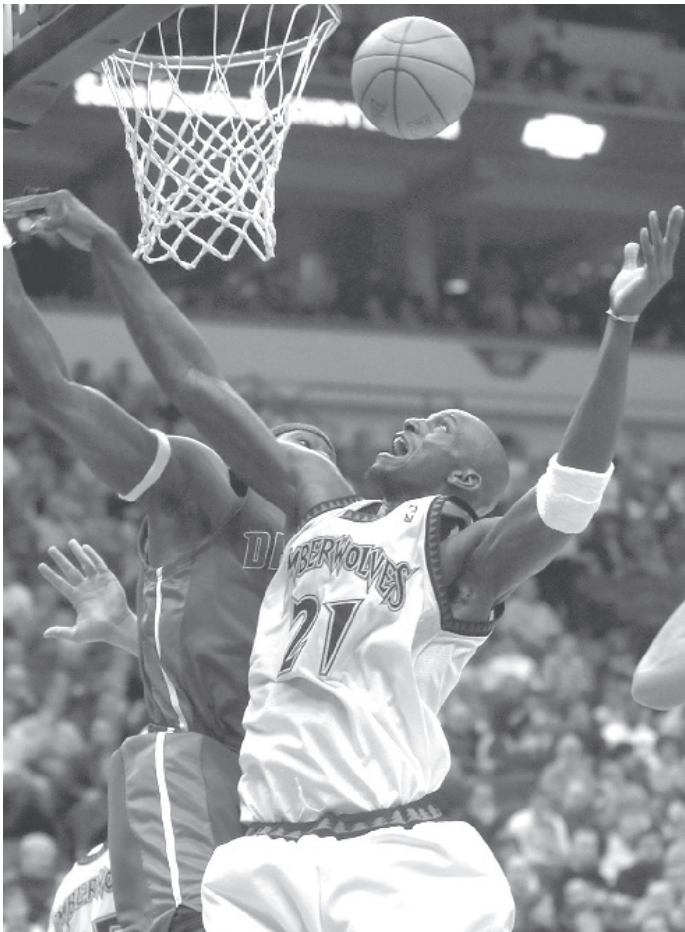
Timberwolves nip Pistons in marquee match up

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Latrell Sprewell's driving layup with 57 seconds remaining gave the Minnesota Timberwolves an 80-79 victory over the Detroit Pistons in a matchup Friday night of two of the league's hottest teams.

Sprewell took a feed from Kevin Garnett along the right baseline and laid the ball off the glass in traffic. The victory was the 10th straight at home and eighth of nine overall for Minnesota.

Garnett scored 16 of his 22 points in the second half. Detroit's defense held the Wolves "Big Three" of Garnett, Sprewell and Sam Cassell to 20-for-60 shooting. Sprewell finished with 17 points and Cassell had just nine.

Former Wolf Chauncey Billups had 18 points for Detroit, which lost its second consecutive game after winning 13 in a row.



Minnesota Timberwolves forward Kevin Garnett (21) goes up with Detroit Pistons forward Ben Wallace, left, for a rebound during the third quarter in Minneapolis, Friday, Jan. 23, 2004.

Grizzlies 109, Kings 95

In Memphis, Tennessee, the Grizzlies established the longest winning streak in franchise history at seven games with a victory over Western Conference leader Sacramento.

Mike Miller scored a season-high 27 points and Jason Williams added 25 points and 10 assists for Memphis. Pau Gasol added 20 points as the Grizzlies shot 51 percent, including 9-of-14 from 3-point range.

Vlade Divac led Sacramento with 17 points and 12 rebounds, and Bobby Jackson had eight of his 16 points in the final quarter.

Magic 98, 76ers 83

In Philadelphia, Tracy McGrady scored 33 points and Orlando defeated the 76ers, which lost starters Derrick Coleman and Kenny Thomas to injuries.

Without those two in the lineup, the Magic built a 13-point lead in the second quarter. Derrick Coleman will be out at least six weeks after breaking his right pinkie. Thomas sustained a corneal abrasion in his left eye after taking an elbow from Zaza Pachulia.

Heat 85, Nets 64

In Miami, Wang Zhi-Zhi outscored Jason Kidd, and Miami handed New Jersey its fifth consecutive defeat — its worst run since April 2001.

With starting center Brian Grant slowed by a knee bruise, the 7-foot-1 Wang finished with 11 points in 11 minutes, matching his point total for the season.

Kidd had nine points, nine rebounds and eight assists.

Lamar Odom tied a career high with 18 rebounds and added 12 points and six assists. Eddie Jones led seven Heat players in double figures with 18 points.

Kenyon Martin led the Nets with 16 points.

Knicks 96, Hawks 94

In Atlanta, Stephon Marbury banked in a go-ahead 3-pointer in the final minute—his second one down the stretch—and New York beat Atlanta.

Knicks have won five of six since Lenny Wilkens replaced Don Chaney as coach.

Marbury finished with 24 points and Keith Van Horn added 18.

Shareef Abdur-Rahim scored 25 points and Stephen Jackson 19 for Atlanta.

Mavericks 106, Bulls 93

In Chicago, Dirk Nowitzki scored 26 points and Michael Finley had 17 of his 23 in the second half to help Dallas to its seventh straight victory.

The Bulls got a career-high 23 points from rookie Kirk Hinrich, but lost their sixth straight game. Hinrich also had a career-best 11 rebounds.

Trailing 62-46, Chicago fought back behind Hinrich, who hit three 3-pointers and made a steal and fed Jamal

Crawford for a dunk that capped a 13-0 run.

Rockets 78, Pacers 74

In Indianapolis, Steve Francis had 19 points, seven rebounds and six assists to lead Houston over Indiana.

Yao Ming scored five of his 17 points in the final 4:15 to hold off Jermaine O'Neal and Indiana, which lost for the first time in six games and just the second in 14.

O'Neal had 31 points and three blocks, but didn't get much help from his teammates. O'Neal was the only Pacer in double figures, going 12-for-25 from the floor. His teammates were 16-for-51.

Celtics 100, Wizards 89

In Boston, Paul Pierce scored 24 points, Mike James added 16 and the Celtics withstood a fourth-quarter rally to defeat Washington.

It was the second straight win after four consecutive losses for the Celtics, who announced prior to the game that forward Vin Baker had been suspended indefinitely for noncompliance with his alcohol treatment program. It's the second time this season that Baker has been suspended.

Steve Blake had a career-high 17 points for the Wizards, who closed within five points with a 24-10 run after trailing 78-59 through three periods.

Hornets 97, Nuggets 91

In New Orleans, Jamaal Magloire had 20 points and 11 rebounds, and Darrell Armstrong added 18 points and five steals for the New Orleans Hornets.

The Hornets attempted only eight 3-pointers (hitting three) and had seven dunks — five by Magloire. New Orleans shot 51 percent.

P.J. Brown added 16 points and reserve forward Robert Traylor 13.

Carmelo Anthony had eight of his 24 points in the final quarter as Denver pulled to 92-91 on a three-point play by Andre Miller. He added 17 points and Voshon Lenard 15 for Denver.

Bucks 98, Raptors 86

In Milwaukee, reserve guard Desmond Mason scored 20 points to lead the Bucks past slumping Toronto.

Milwaukee has won 12 of its last 13 home games.

The Raptors, who have lost four in a row, got just eight points from Vince Carter in his return from a quadriceps injury.

Brian Skinner added 16 points and nine rebounds for the Bucks, who are five games over .500, matching a season high.

Donyell Marshall led Toronto with 17 points.

Clippers 93, Jazz 82

In Los Angeles, Quentin Richardson scored 15 of his 29 points in the first quarter and added eight rebounds and six assists as the Los Angeles Clippers downed Utah.

Elton Brand had 20 points, nine rebounds and five assists, going 12-for-14 from the free throw line to help the Clippers win consecutive games for the first time since a four-game winning streak Dec. 10-17.

Utah center Greg Ostertag, playing in is 600th NBA game, had 16 points and 12 rebounds but missed six of eight free throws.

Spurs 86, Suns 84

In Phoenix, Tony Parker sank a 7-meter (22-foot) basket with 3.8 seconds to play to give the Spurs a win over Phoenix.

Shawn Marion had 23 points and 11 rebounds for the Suns. Casey Jacobsen was 6-for-6 shooting, five of them 3-pointers to match his career high of 17 points, and Jake Voskuhl grabbed a career-high 16 rebounds.

Rasho Nesterovic scored 16, Hedo Turkoglu 12, Parker 11 and Manu Ginobili 10 for San Antonio.

Tribune Sports Scores

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	21	20	.512	—
Boston	22	23	.489	1
New York	20	25	.444	3
Philadelphia	19	24	.442	3
Miami	17	26	.395	5
Washington	12	29	.293	9
Orlando	12	32	.273	10 1-2

Central Division

Indiana	33	12	.733	—
Detroit	29	15	.659	3 1-2
Milwaukee	24	19	.558	8
New Orleans	24	19	.558	8
Toronto	20	21	.488	11
Cleveland	14	28	.333	17 1-2
Atlanta	13	31	.295	19 1-2
Chicago	12	31	.279	20

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

Minnesota	29	12	.707	—
San Antonio	29	15	.659	1 1-2
Dallas	27	16	.628	3
Houston	25	17	.595	4 1-2
Denver	26	19	.578	5
Memphis	24	18	.571	5 1-2
Utah	21	21	.500	8 1-2

Pacific Division

Sacramento	30	11	.732	—
L.A. Lakers	25	15	.625	4 1-2
Seattle	21	20	.512	9
L.A. Clippers	18	22	.450	11 1-2
Portland	17	23	.425	12 1-2
Golden State	17	25	.405	13 1-2
Phoenix	16	28	.364	15 1-2

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

EAST

American U. 74, Colgate 71
Amherst 91, Middlebury 67
Barber-Scotia 57, Mountain St. 53
Brown 77, Yale 65
Bucknell 56, Army 23
Chicago 76, Brandeis 51
Clarkson 66, RPI 58
Cortland St. 81, Plattsburgh 64
Elmira 63, Hartwick 56
Hamilton 74, Union, N.Y. 57
Hartford 78, Dartmouth 68
Holy Cross 88, Navy 54
Ithaca 56, Utica 41
Lafayette 111, Lehigh 104, OT
Manhattan 96, Loyola, Md. 63
N.Y. Tech 80, Brockport 68
Niagara 62, Siena 58
Oneonta 77, Geneseo St. 60
Oswego St. 75, New Paltz 64
Potsdam 63, Fredonia St. 46
Rowan 73, Lincoln, Pa. 65
Skidmore 70, Hobart 63
St. John Fisher 71, Nazareth, N.Y. 61
St. Lawrence 74, Vassar 39
Washington, Mo. 94, NYU 83
Wesleyan, Conn. 83, Colby 70
Williams 81, Trinity, Conn. 64

SOUTH

Centre 64, Hendrix 51
Cincinnati Bible 79, Kentucky Christian 77
DePauw 75, Millsaps 57
Lindsey Wilson 59, Spalding 52
Rochester 75, Emory 72
UCF 74, Troy St. 72

MIDWEST

Black Hills St. 77, Mayville St. 70
Buena Vista 79, Upper Iowa 69
Carroll, Wis. 134, Grinnell 129
Case Reserve 86, Carnegie-Mellon 75
Cornell, Iowa 85, Cent. Iowa 61
Dickinson St. 95, Dakota St. 85
Lawrence 101, Monmouth, Ill. 68
Martin Luther 66, Minn.-Morris 63
Minn.-Moorhead 73, Concordia, St.P. 61
Minot St. 96, Si Tanka-Huron 81
N. Dakota St. 70, Augustana, S.D. 63
Nebraska-Omaha 78, St. Cloud St. 69
Peru St. 78, Coll. of the Ozarks 66
Ripon 86, Illinois College 77
Rose-Hulman 74, Oglethorpe 56
S. Dakota St. 87, North Dakota 79

S. Dakota Tech 73, Valley City St. 57
Simpson, Iowa 78, Coe 69
South Dakota 95, Minn.-Mankato 86
St. Norbert 74, Knox 52
Wartburg 65, Luther 55
York, Neb. 91, Newman 79

SOUTHWEST

No scores reported from the SOUTHWEST.

FAR WEST

No scores reported from the FAR WEST.

SPORTS TRANSACTIONS

MLB

KANSAS CITY ROYALS-Agreed to terms with LHP Darrell May on a two-year contract.
CINCINNATI REDS-Agreed to terms with LHP Jesus Sanchez and RHP Scott Randall on minor league contracts. Purchased the contract of RHP Todd Van Poppel from Louisville of the IL.
COLORADO ROCKIES-Agreed to terms with LHP Shawn Estes on a minor league contract.
MONTREAL EXPOS-Named Eddie Rodriguez bench coach.

NBA

INDIANA-Placed F Jonathan Bender on injured list. Activated C Primoz Brezec from injured list.

NFL

CHICAGO BEARS-Named Ron Rivera defensive coordinator.
CLEVELAND BROWNS-Signed Butch Davis, coach, to a two-year contract extension through 2007. Named Kennedy Pola running backs coach and Fred Graves wide receivers coach.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS-Named Mark Michaels special teams coach.
TENNESSEE TITANS-Announced the retirement of TE Frank Wycheck.

OLYMPICS

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE BOARD-Suspended Kim Un-yong, IOC vice president, pending investigations into corruption charges against him in South Korea.

COLLEGE

PACIFIC WEST CONFERENCE-Announced it is adding conference championships in men's and women's cross country and men's and women's golf, beginning in 2004-2005.
AKRON-Named Jim Pry offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach and Terrell Williams defensive line coach.
ASSUMPTION-Named Cory Bailey football coach.
ILLINOIS-Announced QB Jon Beutjer has been granted a sixth year of football eligibility by the NCAA.
MIAMI-Named Dan Werner offensive coordinator, Tim Walton defensive backs coach and Mario Cristobal tight ends coach.
MINNESOTA-Announced basketball G Maurice Hargrow has decided to transfer.
MORNINGSIDE-Announced Jerry Schmutte, men's basketball coach and athletic director, will take an eight-week medical leave. Named Jim Sykes interim coach and Beth Sibenaller interim athletic director.
NORTHERN ILLINOIS-Named Pontus Hiort men's tennis coach.
PRESBYTERIAN-Named Patrick Lynch men's lacrosse coach and Stephanie Allen women's lacrosse coach.
TRUMAN STATE-Named Shannon Currier football coach.

By The Associated Press

The Week in Sports



Bebang Limes of champion Brotherhood pounds the ball during the championship game against No Ka Oi. Brotherhood dethroned No Ka Oi with a 22-21 victory.



Members of No Ka Oi strike a pose for a photo after settling for second place in the 2nd Annual Crime Stoppers Slow Pitch Softball Tournament last Saturday at the Susupe Softball Field.

Brotherhood, Martha's take home championships



Brotherhood's Julian Camacho has a big smile on face as he heads for the first base bag after smashing a three-run walk-off home run that gave his squad the title.



Third place Natibu pose with tourney coordinators Rodney Klinge, far left, and Tom Blas, far right, of the NMI Crime Stoppers.



No Ka Oi' Manny Sablan smashes a shot in the championship game against Brotherhood.

Round Two Tuesday 8-Ball Fun Tournament winner Joe Schaffer, left, is joined by runner-up Kwek Lizama, middle, and Emi Pelican.



Miller Lite Invitational 8-Ball champion Boyet Sequioco, second from right, celebrates with, from left, referee Rosemarie Moses-Arnold, runner-up Manny Mariano, and third place Dave Peter.

PHOTOS AND TEXT BY MARK RABAGO AND SHAN SEMAN, REPORTERS

Brotherhood and Martha's Retail Store enjoyed a run after emerging as champions in their respective sports this past week.

In the Crime Stoppers Slow Pitch Softball Tournament, Brotherhood nipped defending champion No Ka Oi in a thrilling final last January 17 to take home the title.

Brotherhood's clean-up hitter Julian Camacho scored on a three-run walk-off home run to lift his team to a 22-21 victory over No Ka Oi at the Susupe Softball Field.

Martha's, for its part, won the Adam and Eve Mixed Doubles League after completing a remarkable comeback at the expense of J.E.T. Holdings Co.

The combination of experienced keggers Dannie Robles, Efren Cacdac, Joe Velarde, Stephanie Sablan, Becky Reyes and Martha Rechiucher combined for 56,262 total pin falls for a win-loss record of 59.5-36.5. J.E.T. took runner-up honors after finishing with 55,723 pin falls for a 59-37 slate.

In other sports news, the CNMI Junior National baseball team finished last in the AAA Oceania Baseball Championships after dropping all three of their games in Palau.

Nina Mosley and Team Oceania, meanwhile, made a good account of themselves in the New South Wales Swim Championships after recording 11 personal best times in the international meet.

Dannie Robles receives his 2nd place cash prize for the high pin fall average category during the awards night of the Adam and Eve Mixed Doubles League at the Saipan Bowling Center.



Mark "The Shark" Halstead proudly shows his winnings for topping the high pin fall average category of the Adam and Eve Mixed League.



Mike Guirrey displays the victory sign after winning the high series with handicap category of the Adam and Eve mixed League.



Brotherhood, Martha's take home championships

Brotherhood and Martha's Retail Store enjoyed a run after emerging as champions in their respective sports this past week.

27

Saipan Tribune Sports

O'Neal gets 28 points as Pacers stop Pistons' 13-game winning streak

Jermaine O'Neal had 28 points and 15 rebounds to help the Indiana Pacers snap the Detroit Pistons' 13-game winning streak Tuesday with an 81-69 victory. 25



28 SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2004

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Nagai, Kubo reign supreme in Saipan Half Marathon

Long distance event attracts 102 runners

By SHAN SEMAN
REPORTER

Runners Hisashi Nagai and Sumie Kubo proved to be in tip top shape, breezing past everyone to reign supreme in their respective divisions in the 23rd staging of the Saipan Half Marathon yesterday morning.

Nagai, however, seemed to make the biggest hit on the pavement along Beach Road. The long distance record holder as a Japanese deaf person ran like the wind and outperformed over a 100 other runners en route to posting the fastest time of the event. The tough athlete completed the course in 1:20:15, and was greeted by a loud ovation from everyone at the finish line.

Storming in with the second-best time was Jung-Youn Kim with a sterling time of 1:21:37 while veteran roadrunner Yoshi Suzuki placed third with a respectable time of 1:28:13.

Capping the Top 5 list are South Pacific Games bronze medalist Dirk Sharer and Makoto Watanabe. Sharer, who bagged his bronze last year in Fiji, ran on high gear and posted a time of 1:33:44, earning him fourth place overall and first in the men's 40-49 age group. Watanabe, for his part, finished in 1:33:56 and claimed the top prize in the men's 50-and-Up age group.

Young-Gon Kim and Kuwahara Masaaki also earned individual awards as Kim's time of 1:33:56 enabled him to finish sixth overall and first in the 30-39 age group while Masaaki's 1:38:37 was ninth best and topped the 20-29 age group.

Female sensation Kubo was the first female to catch a breath-

er after huffing and puffing for 1:37:33. Her effort earned her the women's title and the eighth-best time of the day.

Lori Darnell was the next female and 15th runner to greet officials at the finish line, completing the race in 1:44:48. She was followed by Miekko Motoyoshi, who posted a time of 1:46:40.

Rounding up the Top 5 list in the women's corner were Ma-sa k o Uyama

and Laura Kustaborder. Uyama finished in 1:51:16, which was good enough for the 40-49 age group first place medal. Kustaborder placed 35th overall and first in the 30-39 age group with her time of 1:55:46.

Other standouts from the women's side were Lisa Foust and Maggie Greenwood. Foust posted the fastest time—

2:04:25—in the 20-29 age group while Greenwood stole the show in the 50-and-Up age group.

Greenwood's performance amazed many, especially since she made a late start—almost 12 minutes later than everyone—and still managed to catch up and place in the top half of the competition. She had a big smile on her face as she went past the finish line in 2:07:43.

The event, which also featured a 10K segment, kicked off at 5:30am at the intersection of Beach Road and Micro Beach. Runners in the half marathon made their way south, turned at the San Antonio Beach Park, and backtracked to where they started.

The event was hosted by the Northern Mariana Islands Track and Field Federation and the Marianas Visitors Authority.

It's main sponsors were Pacific Trading Co. and DFS Galleria Saipan. Other sponsors included Dai-ichi Saipan Beach Hotel, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Pacific Development Inc.

Saipan Half Marathon winner Hisashi Nagai, center, poses with Miss CNMI South Pacific Olivia Tebuteb and Northern Mariana Islands Track and Field president Kurt Barnes after receiving his first place trophy during yesterday's awards banquet at the pool-side of the Hyatt Regency Saipan. (Shan Seman)

